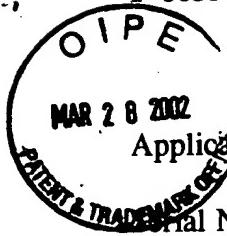


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Frank J. Jordan
(Name of Registered Representative)


(Signature and Date)

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Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated February 19, 2002, along with an English translation thereof and further including Form PTO-1449 and copies of the seven cited references listed therein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of the first Official Action. Therefore, there is no charge for filing this IDS as provided in 37 CFR 1.97(c).

Respectfully submitted,

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